

Assistant Director for Research and Reports

THRU : Chief, Economic Research Area, ORR
Chief, Materials Division, ORR

Establishment of Communications Committee by the IAC

REF : Memorandum from DD/C to Members of the IAC, dated 8 January 1958,
Subject: "Establishment of a Communications Committee"

1. At its meeting on 14 January 1958, the IAC received a memorandum from General Truscott recommending the establishment of a Communications Committee. The memo stated that there now exists a USCIB ad hoc committee on communications which has been studying the transmission of "early warning and other critical intelligence information" primarily in its "technical and organization aspects". It further stated that there is "no permanent body for considering interagency communications problems or for making recommendations . . . as to current and anticipated intelligence requirements for communications . . ." General Truscott proposed that the present USCIB ad hoc committee be expanded into a joint committee to consider all aspects of communications problems.

2. There was considerable objection from service representatives to this proposal. General Collins preferred that the two functions not be merged, but that a way be found of levying the requirements of the intelligence community on the USCIB ad hoc committee. General Walsh appeared to agree, but also recognized an interdependence between the two groups. Mr. Dulles remarked that because of the reports of the Killian and Gaither committees, the intelligence community would be expected to do more than had been done to date in this field. Mr. Sheldon stated that he felt a bridge of some kind should be provided between the intelligence community and the USCIB Committee, since a technical consideration of the best use of present communication facilities for early warning and similar purposes could not be divorced from intelligence needs and priorities.

3. After considerable discussion, it was decided to postpone any decision on the formation of a joint committee until after the USCIB ad hoc committee submitted its report. This report is now in draft form and is scheduled for submission to USCIB at its meeting next week. It was further decided to appoint an IAC Communications Committee to develop the requirements and priorities of the intelligence community. Both NSA and the Department of Defense will be invited to send representatives to this committee.

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SUBJECT: Establishment of Communications Committee by the IAC

4. My own feeling is that the activities of the USCIB ad hoc committee and the interests of the IAC community must be married, and that it will not do to have an arms length passing of requirements from the intelligence community to the USCIB committee.

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